

## COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE WESTERN AND CENTRAL PACIFIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

The Northern Committee of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) met September 9-11, 2008, to formulate recommendations for the Fifth Regular Session of the WCPFC (WCPFC5), which is scheduled for December 8-12, 2008, in Busan, Korea. The Northern Committee is responsible for developing conservation and management recommendations for stocks occurring north of 20° N latitude in the Pacific Ocean and comprises members situated in the area or fishing on such stocks. The Commission may only accept or reject recommendations made by the Northern Committee. If the Commission rejects such advice it returns the matter to the Northern Committee. In effect, the Commission may only make an up or down vote on Northern Committee recommendations and cannot independently modify them.

Attachment 1 is the report of the Northern Committee meeting. Results of the meeting include:

- Forwarding to WCPFC5 a draft conservation and management measure (CMM) for bluefin tuna proposed by Japan (NC Report Attachment H), pending resolution of a reservation by one member (Attachment I). This CMM reflects concerns about the status of North Pacific bluefin tuna stock and current levels of fishing mortality.
- Endorsing a U.S. proposal for an interim management objective and measures for North Pacific albacore, described in NC Report Attachment J.
- Requesting Northern Committee members to report at the 2009 meeting (NC5) their interpretation and implementation of fishing effort controls for North Pacific albacore as required by CMM-2005-03. The U.S. also tabled a proposed amendment to CMM-2005-05 (NC Report Attachment K). CMM-2005-03 is reproduced as Attachment 2. The Committee agreed to revisit this proposal at their 2009 meeting.
- Agreeing that little progress has been made by Northern Committee's working group on striped marlin and recognizing the need to produce useful results (i.e., a CMM) in time for WCPFC5.

The Council may make recommendations for WCPFC actions at their Fifth Regular Session. These recommendations will be transmitted to the U.S. delegation for consideration when formulating U.S. positions taken at the meeting.

### **Council Task:**

**Adopt Recommendations for U.S. positions at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Fifth Regular Session.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 1: Report of the Northern Committee Fourth Regular Session.
2. Agenda Item E.2.a, Attachment 2: Conservation and Management Measure 2005-03.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Agencies and Advisory Bodies
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Recommendations for the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission

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10/17/2008